

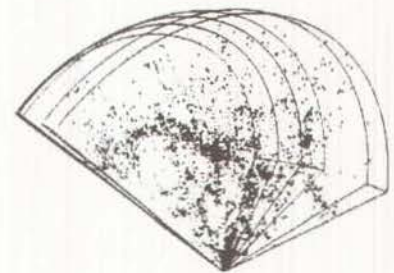
cartographic perspectives

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(NACIS IX Banquet Address)	

cartographic perspectives on the news



MAPPING THE UNIVERSE

A recent article in the journal *Science* (November 17, 1989) reports on a very small scale mapping project that is generating questions which may fundamentally challenge astronomers' conception of the structure of the universe. After logging some 1000 hours of telescope time surveying the positions of 4000 galaxies, astronomers Margaret Geller and John Huchra of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA) announced "We have now mapped about 10^5 of the volume of the visible universe — about the fraction of the earth covered by the state of Rhode Island."

The CfA survey represents an unprecedented opportunity for astronomers to visualize structures in the distribution of galaxies.